

# Making a Difference

A monthly sampler of educational, cultural, and economic contributions of Maine's public universities



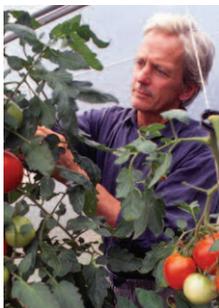
## UMaine Hosts Student Chemical Engineering Conference

ORONO – UMaine recently hosted the Regional Student Conference of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

In addition to UMaine, teams from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Northeastern University, the University of Rhode Island, Clarkson University, and University of New Haven competed.

AIChE's regional student conferences offer students the opportunity to network with professionals from industry and academia, explore potential career paths, and expand their knowledge of the chemical engineering field. Attendees met other students from their region and shared experiences and exchanged ideas on how to run successful AIChE student chapters. Each year nine regional conferences take place across the country.

## Live Video Chat with Organic Farmer Eliot Coleman



**Eliot Coleman**

FORT KENT – UMFK's Environmental Studies Speaker Series recently hosted a live video chat with Eliot Coleman. Coleman's presentation was on "Growing and Harvesting Fresh Produce in a Northern Winter."

Eliot Coleman is well-known as an American farmer, author, agricultural researcher and educator, and a proponent of organic farming. He has more than forty years experience in all aspects of organic farming, including field vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, rotational grazing of cattle and sheep, and range poultry.

Coleman promotes small-scale organic farming practices and sustainable agriculture and served for two years as the Executive Director of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and was an advisor to the US Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the presentation, please contact Steve Selva at 834-7617.

## Houlton Native Education Center Dedication

HOULTON – UMPI officials and area tribal elders gathered recently for the dedication of the Houlton Native Education Center, a new student center designed specifically for Native American students in southern Aroostook County.

The center in Houlton and a similar center located on the UMPI campus were established to better serve Native American students and provide them everything from tutoring services to assistance in filling out paperwork to establishing positive connections on campus. The centers are one component of a major grant project that has been underway at UMPI since last year.

UMPI was one of four universities in New England chosen to participate in Project Compass, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's multi-year initiative aimed at increasing the number of under-represented populations graduating with four-year degrees. For further information, call 768-9792.



**Ceremonies take place at the opening of the Houlton Native Education Center.**

## USM and SMCC Students Showcase Research at Thinking Matters

PORTLAND – Robots in assembly lines, nano-based drugs that fight cancer, soil contamination on Peaks Island, and do veterans feel they are getting the services they need are among the 208 projects to be presented at "Thinking Matters," USM's annual showcase of original student research.

The daylong celebration will open at 8:30 a.m. on April 30, with a three-hour display of research projects on the main floor of USM's Sullivan Gym in Portland.

USM faculty and research staff founded Thinking Matters in 2003 to promote opportunities for USM students to participate in student-faculty research collaborations and to hold an annual event showcasing the results of these efforts. Since then, students and faculty from Southern Maine Community College have also participated.

Thinking Matters is free and open to the public. For more information, call 228-8040, or visit <http://usm.maine.edu/research/thinking-matters>.

## Bio Lecture: Red Tides, Global Warming and the Gulf of Maine

AUGUSTA – Red Tides, Global Warming and How Things are Changing in the Gulf of Maine was the topic of the talk oceans and marine life expert Dr. David Townsend delivered at UMA's Annual Biology Lecture.

Dr. Townsend's lecture could not come at a more appropriate time. Toxic algae blooms affected 97% of Maine's clam flats and other shellfish beds last year, jeopardizing a \$50 million industry in Maine and potentially causing paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans. For more information, call 621-3279 or email [sheilab@maine.edu](mailto:sheilab@maine.edu).



### Clipper Youth Basketball Camp

## UMM Expands Summer Camps for 2010

MACHIAS – This summer UMM has a great line-up of fun and educational camps for kids in grade school through high school.

This year UMM will be introducing a handful of new summer programs, including Clipper Kids recreational day camp, which offers a great opportunity for children with lots of energy to explore a number of different activities and games; the Maine Youth Geographic Information Systems (MyGIS) camp, designed for tech-inclined teens who are looking for a hi-tech collegiate experience that will be fun and environmentally-oriented and provide a head start on college tech courses; and the Maine Theatre Camp for Kids. Myth, magic, fairy tales, and folklore galore will abound in this two-week summer drama day camp for children.

For more information, pricing, or to register for UMM summer camps, please visit [www.umm.maine.edu/summer](http://www.umm.maine.edu/summer).

## UMPI Math Program Hosts Imagine Math Day

PRESQUE ISLE – Professors with the UMPI's math program recently exposed local high school students to some new mathematical concepts during the Second Annual Imagine Math Day.

Approximately 50 students and their teachers from Aroostook County high schools visited the campus to take part in the math event. The group took a guided exploration of mathematical models in population ecology.

Imagine Math Day was held in April to celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month, which is sponsored jointly by the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Imagine Math Day is not a competition, and no coursework beyond basic algebra was a prerequisite for participation. For more information about Imagine Math Day, contact Dr. Shawn Robinson at 768-9724.



## UMF Senior Art Exhibit

FARMINGTON – UMF presents "In:decision," an exhibit of dynamic and intriguing new works by students graduating from the Department of Sound, Performance and Visual Inquiry in 2010. The exhibit is free and open-to-the-public and will run through May 16 at the UMF Art Gallery.

These works investigate the complex processes of aesthetic decision-making from the perspective of young artists preparing to enter the discourses of the larger world. Both collectively and singularly, these pieces explore the ways in which world views are elaborated and communities built. They embody an evolving understanding of how we, as artists, function both as consumers of objects and as objects consumed.

The UMF Gallery is located at 246 Main St., Farmington. It is open from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call 778-7002.



Former Governor Angus King

## Center for Digital Learning Moves to USM's Lewiston-Auburn College

PORTLAND – The Maine International Center for Digital Learning (MICDL) is moving to USM's Lewiston-Auburn College

(LAC) under an agreement signed early this month. The non-profit center was founded by former Maine Governor Angus King to support teaching and learning practices that often involve the use of digital media. King, USM President Selma Botman, LAC Dean Joyce Gibson and others signed the agreement during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

USM's LAC has a long-standing working relationship with K-12 schools in the region, and is the home of College for Me-Androscoggin, a community-wide collaborative working to double the number of college-educated citizens in Androscoggin County.

## UMaine Hosts School Robotics Competition

ORONO – The UMaine Black Bear Robotics Club recently hosted VEX, a robotics competition for middle and high school students.

The goal of the event was to have some friendly competition between students from around the state and New England while getting a chance to experience real world engineering and applying the math and science skills they learn in school.

The VEX Robotics Competition was piloted two years ago when only one official event was held. There now are more than 2,000 teams from 20 countries competing in more than 150 tournaments worldwide.

Among other projects and activities, the group created a remote-controlled T-shirt launching robot that can hold eight shirts at once and fire them in succession. They're now working to upgrade the machine so it can handle the abuse of driving around outside on bumpy and uneven ground so it also could be used for outdoor events.

## UMFK Offers ALERT Law Examination

FORT KENT – UMFK is offering the law enforcement ALERT examination on April 26. The examination is a reading comprehension and writing skills test.

UMFK officials note that offering the exam fits in with the university's expansion of criminal justice and public safety outreach efforts.

The test is required prior to attending programs offered at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, such as their Enforcement Pre-Service Program, which will be offered on the UMFK campus from May 17 through June 4. To register or for more information, contact Dr. Tony Enerva at 834-7566 by e-mail at: [tenerva@maine.edu](mailto:tenerva@maine.edu)

## USM Presents "Reconciliation Portland"

PORTLAND – An expert on reconciling differences between Western and African cultures will be in Portland on April 28 to lead a discussion on the issues facing Portland's new immigrants from many countries and other residents.

"Reconciliation Portland," a community-wide discussion on building a diverse city, co-sponsored by Mercy Hospital and the USM Muskie School of Public Service, will be held from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the USM Portland campus. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Emmanuel Katongole, associate professor at Duke Divinity School and Catholic priest from Uganda, will present "Fear, Security, & the Risk of Hospitality." Co-director of the Center of Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School, Professor Katongole will offer an interfaith vision for reconciliation that is comprehensive, transformative, and global.

Following Dr. Katongole's talk, there will be a panel discussion. For more information, contact Jennifer Hutchins from USM's Muskie School of Public Service at 780-4150.



## UMaine Extension Creates Program to Help First-Time Gardeners

ORONO – UMaine Cooperative Extension has launched Grow Maine Grow, a website for first-time vegetable gardeners looking for easy-to-find local Maine resources and answers to gardening questions.

Gardens can provide food, add beauty to the landscape, provide exercise, save us money and allow us to connect with family, friends and community. However, vegetable gardening in Maine, especially for the beginner, can be quite challenging. Grow Maine Grow was created for people who would like to plant a vegetable garden, but have no idea where to begin.

First-time gardeners have many questions and the Cooperative Extension can answer these questions and more at: <http://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/grow-maine-grow>.



## UMF AmeriCorps VISTA Program Strengthens Community Connection

FARMINGTON – UMF, AmeriCorps VISTA and the Maine Campus Compact all share a common vision of building community through education and service.

This upcoming year a VISTA representative at UMF will be involved in a number of practical initiatives including, helping to develop a website that will coordinate student volunteer and internship positions in the local community.

Plans call for working closely with students, faculty, staff and community partners to support community service and service-learning programs and to assist in developing strong campus-community partnerships. For more information call 778-7087.

## UMF Visiting Writers Series Features NY Times Bestseller Author

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Creative Writing program presents Jennifer Haigh as the next writer in its 2009-10 Visiting Writers Series. Haigh will read from her work at 7:30 p.m., on April 29, at The Landing in the UMF Olsen Student Center. This free and open-to-the-public reading will be followed by a signing by the author.

Haigh is the author of Baker Towers, a New York Times bestseller as well as the winner of a PEN/L.L. Winship Award to honor a New England writer. Also included among her works is Mrs. Kimble, her first novel for which she won the PEN/Hemingway Award for debut fiction, and The Condition, which has been published in nine languages. Haigh is currently a Visiting Writer in Residence with the creative writing graduate program at UMass Boston. She worked for Rodale Press as an editor and for Self magazine as a senior editor. Haigh received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Iowa Writers Workshop in 2002.

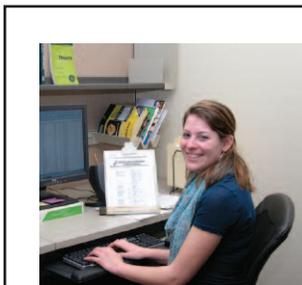
## East Machias Aquatic Research Center Offers Tours



MACHIAS – UMM's Green Campus Steering Committee took students and community members on a tour of the East Machias Aquatic Research Center (EMARC) this past month. EMARC is home to the Downeast Salmon Federation and features a new wind turbine and solar panels.

### Visitors tour the East Machias' Aquatic Research Center.

After the tour, guests were invited to join the Green Campus Steering Committee at the O'Brien House for a discussion about sustainability efforts on campus, including the "Greening the O'Brien House" project, a three-year initiative that will transform the historic UMM president's house into a showcase home for sustainability. The project will update the home's heating, electrical, and roofing systems, while teaching students and community members how to renovate an old home with practical, economical steps toward energy efficiency and sustainability. For more information, contact Chad Everett, UMM's sustainability coordinator, at [chad.everett@maine.edu](mailto:chad.everett@maine.edu).



### Editor in Training

The stories for this issue of Making a Difference were researched by Sydney White, a third-year UMaine student in mass communications and public relations. Sydney is from Lamoine.

## UMA Jazz Week Offers Free Concerts

AUGUSTA – From April 20-24 UMA’s Music Program presented Jazz Week Spring 2010.

Held each semester, UMA’s Jazz Week provides a forum for public performances by student ensembles and faculty performer/directors.

Jazz Week Spring 2010 included performances by twelve UMA ensembles, including the UMA Tour Band, Fusion Ensemble, Progressive Rock Ensemble, Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensembles, among others. This semester’s presentations also included classical string quartet performances of UMA student compositions.

## More Than 250 Participate in “Advancing Maine”



BANGOR – The future of Maine’s economy depends—in large part—on having college graduates with degrees that are in line with the state’s needs. On April 6 UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude convened business, government, and education leaders from across the state to discuss this topic at Advancing Maine: Aligning UMS Academic Programs to Meet Future Workforce Needs. The day-long summit included 200 participants gathered in Orono and dozens more from across the state via video conference and audio stream.

The event will help UMS assess future workforce needs and assist in guiding Maine’s public universities in prioritizing new program development and strengthening current programs.

Featured speakers included Governor John E. Baldacci; Doug Hall, founder and CEO of Eureka!Ranch—an invention and research think tank; Laurie Lachance, president of the Maine Development Foundation; and John Dorrer, director of the Maine Department of Labor’s Center for Workforce Research and Information. Videos and handouts from each presentation are available at [www.advancing.maine.edu](http://www.advancing.maine.edu).

## UMS Commencement Calendar

Click on a university link to view complete commencement information.

### MAY 8:

**UMaine:** [www.umaine.edu/commencement/speaker.htm](http://www.umaine.edu/commencement/speaker.htm)

**UMA:** [www.uma.edu/gratzthompson.html](http://www.uma.edu/gratzthompson.html)

**UMFK:** [www.umfk.maine.edu/commencement/default.cfm](http://www.umfk.maine.edu/commencement/default.cfm)

### MAY 15:

**UMF:** [www.umf.maine.edu/inside/events.php?eventid=35723](http://www.umf.maine.edu/inside/events.php?eventid=35723)

**UMM:** [www.umm.maine.edu/hudson-speaker.html](http://www.umm.maine.edu/hudson-speaker.html)

**UMPI:** [www.umpi.edu/files/university-offices/office-student-records/StudRecordsLtr10GradInfo2010.pdf](http://www.umpi.edu/files/university-offices/office-student-records/StudRecordsLtr10GradInfo2010.pdf)

**USM:** [www.usm.maine.edu/commencement/student\\_speaker.html](http://www.usm.maine.edu/commencement/student_speaker.html)